



# US Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

## ***Media Advisory***

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### **Project Update: Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Suffolk, VA**

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) project will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Bon Secours Health Center at Harbour View located at 5818 Harbour View Boulevard in Suffolk in the second floor conference room. RAB meetings are open to the public. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Meeting Topics will include:

- The Corps' Proposed Plan and upcoming public meeting regarding the marine offshore area of the James River and Nansemond River near TCC Portsmouth Campus
- Update on the time-critical response action for soil in the TNT area at the entrance of the TCC Portsmouth Campus
- Project Accomplishments & Priorities
- 2004 Project Budget

#### **Project Updates**

**Offshore Area** – The U.S. Army Corps has completed a comprehensive environmental study of the James River and Nansemond River near the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth campus. The study included three miles of river from the James River near the I-664 bridge to the Nansemond River near the GE facility from the Mean Low Water line out as far as 1 nautical mile from shore. The Corps tested river sediments for FNOD-related contaminants of concern such as explosives (such as TNT), metals (such as Lead and Arsenic), Pesticides (such as

Dieldrin), and Volatile Organic Compounds (such as TCE – a contaminant associated with solvents). The Offshore study has consisted of environmental characterization activities and field surveys, screening level and Baseline Ecological Risk Assessments, and a Human Health Risk Assessment.

Results of this study indicate that contaminants originating from the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) are not present in the Offshore sediments at concentrations that would pose a risk to animals or humans. Based on these findings, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing no further action for the “offshore area”.

The Corps is seeking public input on the *Proposed Plan* of no further action and is hosting a public meeting on December 4, 2003 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Bon Secours Medical Center in Harbourview (Suffolk). A 30-day public comment period will begin on December 4, 2003 and end on January 4, 2004. The Corps will respond to all comments received prior to finalizing a formal Record of Decision for the Offshore Area.

### **Chemical Warfare Material (CWM ) Testing**

EPA’s latest round of CWM testing at FNOD was completed on February 5, 2003. No Chemical Warfare Materials or bi-products were detected. As a result, EPA currently has no CWM concerns at the site. The testing was conducted as a safety precaution to respond to inconclusive historical records on the site. There has never been documentation or evidence that CWM was ever stored or disposed of at the site.

### **TNT Area**

The Corps completed ordnance removal activities in the TNT Area on July 9, 2003. The TNT area is less than an acre in size near the entrance of the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus. Following the ordnance removal, the Corps tested the soil in the excavation area. This soil, which was below the surface prior to OE removal efforts, contains high concentrations of Lead and TNT. The Corps consulted with EPA and VDEQ to determine how to address the soil. The agencies agreed to allow the Corps to place the soil in a plastic cover and back into the excavated area until the Corps can complete a comprehensive soil and groundwater investigation of the site to determine the best long-term cleanup strategy. The Corps has notified Tidewater Community College and the area soccer league, has placed signs in the affected area, and is coordinating site maintenance activities with TCC to minimize

disturbance of the soil. In addition, the Corps will be placing a fabric and 12-inch soil cover over the affected soil by the end of the year as an additional safety precaution until the full-scale investigation can be completed. The Corps is expecting to complete the comprehensive soil and groundwater investigation of the site and select a final cleanup remedy by 2006.

### **Ordnance Removal Efforts**

The Corps is continuing OE clearing efforts in the Main Burning Ground area on GE property. Approximately 258 OE items have been removed since 2001. There are approximately 51 investigation grids left to clear at the site. The Army Corps' ordnance experts conduct planned detonations of the ordnance found during these investigations once a suitable safety perimeter is established to safely dispose of the items. Planned detonations for ordnance found at FNOD are usually executed between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

### **Background on the Restoration Advisory Board**

The Restoration Advisory Board, established in 1997, is a communications forum that enables the public to provide input on cleanup efforts. It is comprised of a diverse array of stakeholders including community members, local business representatives, local and state officials, a TCC representative and environmental staff from the Corps, VDEQ and EPA.

### **Background on the Project**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Norfolk District is continuing its environmental investigations and cleanup activities in the vicinity of TCC's Portsmouth campus as part of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program following EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidelines.

For more information please contact Adriane James, Formerly Used Defense Site Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (757) 441-7701.

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